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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
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#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEAL

Erdogan: Turkey Ready to Cut Off Talks with EU - Sabah  
FT: EU Should Honor Its Promise to Turkey - Aksam  
King Abdullah's Iraq Concern - Milliyet  
72 Insurgents Killed in Tal Afar - Hurriyet  
Operation against Turkmen City of Tal Afar: 72 Killed - Sabah  
PKK riots in Van, Mersin Provinces - Milliyet  
Schroeder Wins TV Duel with Merkel - Hurriyet  
Turkish Vessel Collides with US Submarine - Hurriyet  
Katrina May Bring the End for Bush - Aksam 9/5  
New Orleans Becomes a 'Ghost City' - Hurriyet 9/5  
Bangladesh Offers US 1 Million USD for Katrina Victims - Vatan  
Jane Fonda Campaigns for Iraq Pullout - Aksam

##### OPINION MAKERS

US Troops Besiege Tal Afar, Turkmen Uneasy - Zaman  
King Abdullah: Iraq Fire Will Burn Turkey, Jordan Too - Zaman  
Germany Bans 'PKK Daily' "Ozgur Gundem" - Cumhuriyet  
Black Americans Accuse Bush of 'Racism' - Cumhuriyet 9/5  
US Asks EU, NATO for Help - Yeni Safak 9/5  
US Judiciary Getting Conservative - Radikal  
EU Leaders Land in China - Yeni Safak  
First Shakespeare Play in Kabul in 25 Years - Yeni Safak

#### BRIEFING

PKK Demonstrations in Support of Ocalan: Supporters of the separatist PKK held violent protests in Istanbul, Bursa, Mersin and Van provinces in support of jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, throwing 'Molotov cocktails' at vehicles and shops and prompting riot police to respond with tear gas, papers reported over the weekend. Eighty-eight demonstrators were detained in Istanbul after burning a commuter bus and fighting with the police. The police saved some demonstrators from lynching attempts by local people. PKK supporters clashed with police in the mainly Kurdish city of Diyarbakyr and attacked the local branch of nationalist party MHP as well as bank offices. Demonstrators threw stones at the police and attacked a local police station. The PKK protests are a provocation designed to sabotage the democratic atmosphere in Turkey and are orchestrated by Ocalan and the PKK leadership in northern Iraq, papers speculate. Press commentaries point to the rising violence on the eve of October 3, the date for opening EU entry talks with Turkey. Justice Minister and Government Spokesman Cemil Cicek said after a six-hour cabinet meeting that Turkish people had been 'coolheaded' in the face of the provocations. Main opposition CHP leader Deniz Baykal and many other political parties called on the nation to remain calm.

Dissident Kurds Gather against the PKK: On Sunday, Kurdish intellectuals who oppose the PKK terror organization held a meeting in Ankara to support the breakthrough made by Prime Minister Erdogan with regard to the Kurdish issue, Monday papers report. The dissident Kurds stressed that the PKK was not the representative of all Kurds in Turkey, calling on the militants to lay down arms. The group also issued a call for a review of Turkey's unitary structure. The meeting was organized by HAK-PAR, the pro-Kurdish party chaired by former lawmaker Abdulmelik Firat.

Germany Bans PKK-Affiliated Daily: Germany's interior ministry shut down the PKK-affiliated "Ozgur Politika" newspaper on the grounds that it disseminated orders of the separatist PKK leadership. Police searched the houses of columnists and writers at "Ozgur Politika," say papers.

**Sezer Declines Inviting Talabani:** President Sezer has been refusing for four months to extend an invitation to Iraqi President Talabani to visit Ankara as Turkey is trying to pressure him and Barzani to change their policy on the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk which they claim as Kurdish, weekend papers report. Diplomatic sources told the press that Ankara had been uneasy with the Talabani policies in Kirkuk, lashing out at the Iraqi president for ignoring the sensitivities of Turkey. Ankara is uneasy that the draft Iraqi constitution contained no guarantees to preserve the special status of Kirkuk and is also worried that Kurds will continue efforts to change the demography of the oil-rich northern Iraqi city before a scheduled census in 2007, say papers.

**US-Iraq Operations against Tal Afar Insurgents:** Iraqi and US troops, backed by helicopters and attack aircraft, are battling insurgents in the northern town of Tal Afar, where at least 72 insurgents were killed, Turkish papers report the US military as saying on Monday. The insurgents were killed by helicopter fire after shooting at the security forces from inside a mosque. Its residents continued fleeing Tal Afar where tension is high between its Sunni Arab and Turkmen communities. Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITF) representative Abdullah Ketene told the Turkish press that the operation aimed at driving out the Turkmen, pointing to Kurds' attempts to change the demographic structure of the town.

**Turkey Offers Help to Katrina Victims:** The Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay) told the US Red Cross that it was ready to help Hurricane Katrina victims, Tuesday "Sabah" reports. Government Spokesman Cemil Cicek said that Turkey shared the grievances of 'friend and ally' United States, adding that Turkish offers for cooperation in the face of the disaster had been conveyed to the US Administration. Turkey is planning to move together with NATO and the European Union in an effort to help heal the wounds of the victims of the hurricane, says the report.

**Ivanov Offers Military Cooperation with Turkey:** The Russian Defense Minister Sergey Ivanov told the Turkish media in a statement that Turkey and Russia can cooperate in diverse fields ranging from the defense industry to the struggle against terrorism, and from regional issues to space exploration, Tuesday papers report. The Ivanov statement noted that in 1994, the two countries had signed a military cooperation agreement -- the first such deal Russia signed with a NATO member. Ivanov said that Turkey and Russia should produce together armored military vehicles and search-and-rescue vessels, should cooperate in military satellite surveillance technology, and that Russian anti-aircraft systems can be integrated into air defense systems produced by Strelts and Aselsan, military industry companies in the two countries. Ivanov also stressed that the Russian/Israeli-made attack helicopters would prove to be advantageous for the Turkish army. "Milliyet" speculates that Ivanov urged Turkey to deepen cooperation with Russia by opting in favor of the Russian/Israeli helicopters.

**Gul Warns EU against Further Concessions:** Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul told "The Economist" that Turkey will leave the negotiating table with the EU 'for good' if the bloc offers anything short of full membership, weekend papers reported. 'No one should expect Turkey to make more concessions. We have stuck to our side of the bargain, and the EU should stick to its side,' Gul stressed. Saturday's papers also reported Gul as telling the European foreign ministers that a counter-declaration to be issued by the EU against Ankara's reluctance to recognize Cyprus would be 'unacceptable' for Turkey.

**King Abdullah Visits Ankara:** During his one-day working visit to Ankara on Monday, Jordan's King Abdullah shared with President Sezer and Prime Minister Erdogan his concerns with regard to the developments in Iraq on the eve of the parliamentary vote on the new constitution. Abdullah said after meeting Sezer that the Sunnis should participate in the political developments in Iraq, voicing concern that unrest in the country would spill over Jordan and other regional countries. Sezer voiced support for Iraq's territorial integrity and reiterated Ankara's sensitivities about preserving the special status of Kirkuk. He also offered to sign a free trade agreement between the two countries and asked for Jordan's support for northern Cyprus. Abdullah later discussed Iraq and Palestine with PM Erdogan before flying to Egypt the same day, say papers.

**EU to Ask Ankara to Normalize Ties with Nicosia:** "Cumhuriyet" says that a counter-declaration to be released by the EU in response to Ankara's Cyprus declaration would contain a provision calling for the normalization of Turkish ties with the Greek Cypriots by 2006. The declaration will call Turkey to allow Greek Cypriots vessels to Turkish ports. Nicosia is also expected to press for opening a diplomatic representation in Ankara, says "Cumhuriyet". The

paper warns that it will be Vienna, an opponent of Turkey's membership, to decide whether Turkey has met EU requirements during Austria's term presidency in the first half of 2006. If Turkey declines to meet EU demands, accession talks will not advance, the paper adds.

50th Anniversary of Attacks against Non-Muslims in Istanbul: September 6 marks the 50th anniversary of attacks against non-Muslim businesses, houses and places of worship in Istanbul after a report that a bomb had been thrown at the house where Turkey's founder Ataturk was born in Thessalonika, Greece, "Milliyet" reports on Tuesday. Five thousand three hundred seventeen non-Muslim owned shops and houses were destroyed in attacks by Turks in September 6-7, 1955, in Istanbul. According to court records, 4,214 houses, 1,004 businesses, 73 churches, one synagogue, two monasteries and 26 schools were plundered by an angry mob, prompting declaration of Martial Law. The then-ruling party DP (Democrat Party) blamed the communists for the uproar. Following the attacks, the majority of non-Muslims left Turkey.

EU Concerned of Lawsuit against Pamuk: Saturday "Sabah" says that the legal action initiated by Turkey against renowned novelist Orhan Pamuk had annoyed both the supporters and adversaries of Turkey's EU entry. Observers said that the lawsuit filed on the eve of October 3 was a 'misfortune' for Turkey, warning that it will block Turkey's EU membership.

PKK Militants Captured in Istanbul: On Monday, police captured three PKK militants preparing to stage bomb attacks against civilians in the Sultanahmet district in Istanbul, papers report. The terrorists had 108 kg of A-4 shrapnel bombs in their hideout.

Another Turkish Truck Driver Killed in Iraq: A Turkish truck driver, Huseyin Bulat (66), was killed in the Belet city of Iraq over the weekend, Monday papers report. Bulat, the father of eight children, was carrying pre-fabricated housing material to US forces in Iraq.

US Submarine Collides with Turkish Vessel: A US nuclear-powered submarine, USS Philadelphia, collided with a Turkish cargo ship in the Persian Gulf on Monday, papers report. Nobody was hurt and both vessels appeared to suffer only superficial damage, the US navy reportedly said.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: Hurricane Katrina

"Death of a Superman"  
Ali Kirca commented in the mass appeal "Sabah" (9/6):  
"Hurricane Katrina demonstrated the reality. Superman is a Hollywood legend, and a superpower is a virtual reality. In reality, none of these things exist. The reality about the superpower has become clear after hurricane Katrina. First the blacks realized the truth, and then the entire world. The superpower image of the US been washed away like make-up. Hurricane Katrina unfortunately claimed thousands of lives, and we wish that had not happened. But it brought some bitter lessons as well. Most of all, this event will mark an end for the Bush administration and an end for a Republican administration for the foreseeable future. Katrina will likely to turn into a political cyclone for the Republican Party in the next US elections."

"Troubles for the US"  
Ilter Turkmen wrote in the mass appeal "Hurriyet" (9/6):  
"The US now seems to be confused and stumbling, not only in Iraq, but also domestically due to the Katrina disaster. It seems that popular trust in President Bush has experienced a serious, irreparable blow. In fact, the list of President Bush's mistakes is becoming quite long. Ignoring the intelligence reports prior to, starting the Iraq war despite reports of the possible consequences, the increase in Al-Qaida terror, and the Bush administration's cutting of social programs are just a few examples. The New Orleans disaster showed that there is a third world hidden within the United States. President Bush once again grasped the dimensions of the disaster only belatedly. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, we saw a united America. But today we see a divided America. Given the current situation, there is almost no way for the Bush administration to pursue a successful and firm policy in Iraq and the Middle East."

"Bush, Go Back Home!"  
Mustafa Balbay commented in the leftist-nationalist "Cumhuriyet": "Recent incidents in New Orleans remind us of two phrases. One is, 'a person's weakest moment comes when he feels most powerful.' The second is, 'if a country tries to overcome everything through military power, it is a sign that the country has started to disintegrate.' Both of these phrases apply very much to George Bush. There is no doubt that the US has the most powerful military force in the world. Never mind individual countries, but even if

whole continents join together they cannot fight against this superpower. But rockets do not eliminate hurricanes! Everyone now believes that the reason it took so long for the hurricane relief to reach New Orleans is that the majority of the city's inhabitants are black people. Even if this not true, the fact that people are even thinking this way is rather serious. That means that people in the US still haven't been able to eliminate racism from their minds."

MCELDOWNEY